

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SUMMIT
OF HOPE PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Summit of Hope, which has become one of the most successful programs at reducing recidivism in the nation. Too many former inmates leave prison ill-prepared to find work and resume their lives, and the rate at which prisoners return to incarceration is far too high. The economic and human costs associated with high recidivism rates are unacceptable, and we must work for change.

The Summit of Hope is a collaborative effort between the Illinois Department of Corrections, the Illinois Department of Public Health and local organizations throughout the state. In 2014, over 13,000 parolees and probationers received resources and assistance which helps many of them along the path to successful re-entry into society. Overseen by Senior Community Outreach Administrator Marcus King, the Summit of Hope is an example of how we can work together to address our most pressing challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I will be joining Summit of Hope and community leaders at an event in North Chicago, Illinois. I consider it an honor to be a part of their initiative.

COMMEMORATING THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF TOM PARROTT

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to commemorate the public service of Tom Parrott. Tom is retiring from the Social Security Administration after more than four decades of service to the millions of Americans who rely on Social Security. I serve as the Ranking Democrat on the Committee on Ways and Means, and over the years my colleagues and I and our staff have relied heavily on Tom's thoughtful and accurate advice as we crafted Social Security and Supplemental Security Income legislation. We and our constituents owe Tom our thanks for his careful stewardship of their contributions and the benefits they rely on to live.

Tom's roots at Social Security are deep, as his father of the same name and his mother served at SSA before him. In fact, Tom says he can remember polishing the family car so his parents could go to the movies with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ball.

In January 1975, Tom began his service at Social Security as a claims representative in the Midtown Manhattan district office, before being assigned to the Rochester, New York and, subsequently, Redding, California district offices. In 1980, he was welcomed back to his home town of Baltimore as a policy analyst in the predecessor office of the current Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs. He then devoted himself for the last 35 years to working on federal legislation, providing impartial and knowledgeable counsel. He has been Acting Deputy Commissioner for Legislation and

Congressional Affairs, and currently serves as Assistant Deputy Commissioner.

Tom's commitment to public service runs deeply. Prior to coming to Social Security, Tom was a VISTA volunteer and later a field health inspector working for the State with migrant farm workers in the potato and apple growing regions of western New York. Tom is a 1972 graduate of Denison University, and completed the Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society program in 2005. He became a member of the Senior Executive Service in 2008.

As evidenced by his long and successful service in SSA's legislative affairs office, Tom has a keen eye for public policy, understanding the need to balance competing objectives in a politically and operationally workable fashion, and always with the Americans who rely on Social Security firmly in mind. We and our staffs have enjoyed working with Tom—one of his gifts is the ability to retain a calm demeanor and a sense of humor no matter what the situation. We have relied greatly on Tom's assistance and wise counsel over the years. We thank him for his service, and we wish him a well-earned retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MS. JOYCE ANN BROWN

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Joyce Ann Brown of Dallas, Texas. Ms. Brown was wrongly convicted of aggravated robbery in 1980 and unfairly served over nine years in prison despite her innocence. Following her release in 1989, Ms. Brown used her story to fight for justice for those wrongly convicted in Texas and around the country. Her passing on June 13, 2015 leaves a void in the city of Dallas and I join the Texas community in giving our condolences to the Brown family.

Ms. Brown was raised in Dallas, Texas. In 1980, at the age of 33 she was accused of murder after a local robbery turned violent. Despite eyewitness testimony verifying her alibi, Ms. Brown was wrongfully convicted. Following her conviction, Ms. Brown refused to be a victim of her circumstances and fought for a dignified release.

After numerous appeal requests went unanswered, Ms. Brown was finally permitted a retrial and released on bond on November 3, 1989. After being incarcerated for nearly a decade for a crime she did not commit, she was finally able to see her charges dropped on February 14, 1990.

Following her release, Ms. Brown served as an assistant for nine years to Dallas County Commissioner, John Wiley Price and later founded MASS, Mothers/Fathers for the Advancement of Social Systems. Ms. Brown's organization aimed to use her experience and passion to help others who were wrongfully convicted.

Ms. Brown spent the remainder of her life advocating on the behalf of currently and formerly incarcerated populations with the goal of promoting their successful reintegration into society. Her autobiography *Joyce Brown: Justice Denied* remains as a testament to both

the events that led to her wrongful conviction and her commitment to ensuring justice for all following her exoneration.

In honor of Ms. Joyce Ann Brown, a tireless advocate for justice, this statement will be entered into the congressional record on Tuesday, June 23, 2015. She will be remembered as a leader, trailblazer and true public servant for the state of Texas and beyond.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,689,167,905.61. We've added \$7,525,812,118,992.53 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF MR.
JOHN R. ROZZO

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. John R. Rozzo. Mr. Rozzo was highly respected within the community for his career as an educator, his dedication to the community, and his love for his friends and family.

John was born on January 17th, 1941 to Samuel and Mary G. Airato Rozzo. He graduated from Girard High School in 1958 and afterwards attended Youngstown State University, where he received his B.S. in Education in 1963. John began teaching social studies and science at St. Edward School in Youngstown in 1962 while working towards his Master's in Education, which he received in 1968 from Westminster College. He eventually went on to serve as principal for St. Edwards School, Our Lady of Mt. Cannel in Niles, St. Dominic Elementary School in Youngstown, and St. Joseph Elementary School in Austintown before retiring in 2011. His legacy as a teacher and administrator lives on through all of his students whose lives he impacted through his work.

Mr. Rozzo was also a highly regarded leader. He was a man who constantly sacrificed his time for his community. As an educator, he served as regional superintendent, member of the Trumbull County Parochial Schools Principal's Advisory Board, the Diocesan Board of Education and Athletic Director. At St. Joseph parish, he was a lector, Eucharistic minister, and leader of prayer. Being the advocate for education that he was, John served as judge and checker for the Vindicator Spelling Bee for over 40 years. He also showed a fierce commitment to the Austintown Girls' Softball league by serving as a president, coach, manager and was inducted as a member of their hall of fame.